

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 06MANAGUA2160, EDUARDO WILL BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT, UNLESS FSLN

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06MANAGUA2160**.

| Reference ID                  | Created                          | Released                         | Classification         | Origin                          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <a href="#">06MANAGUA2160</a> | <a href="#">2006-09-29 22:44</a> | <a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a> | <a href="#">SECRET</a> | <a href="#">Embassy Managua</a> |

Appears in these articles:

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<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3967/barreto-era-ldquo-fuente-confiable-rdquo-para-eeuu>

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7735  
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

S E C R E T MANAGUA 002160

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DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/CEN, WHA/USOAS, NSC FOR DAN FISK

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/29/2026

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SUBJECT: "EDUARDO WILL BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT, UNLESS FSLN  
FRAUD PREVENTS IT," PREDICTS MONTEALEGRE,S CAMPAIGN ADVISER

Classified By: Ambassador Paul A. Trivelli. Reasons 1.4 (B,D).

¶1. (C) Over lunch at the Presidency on 28 September, Eduardo Montealegre's campaign adviser Mario Elgarresta asserted to President Bolanos' chief of staff Nayo Somarriba, DCM, and polcouns that Ncaaguan Liberal Alliance (ALN) candidate Montealegre will be Nicaragua's next president -- unless Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) candidate Daniel Ortega steals the election on the first round. Elgarresta listed the departments of Managua, Matagalpa, Leon, Granada, and Chinandega as the most vulnerable areas, as these are Nicaragua's most densely populated regions.

¶2. (C) Elgarresta noted that ALN polls show that Montealegre is closing in on the FSLN candidate, placing approximately two to three points below frontrunner Ortega, while Liberal Constitutional Party (PLC) candidate Jose Rizo trails Montealegre by about ten points. According to Elgarresta, Montealegre leads by 14-15 points in Chinandega and Granada, while Ortega maintains a two-point lead over Montealegre in Leon. Ortega enjoys a few points' lead over Rizo in Matagalpa, followed closely by Montealegre; however, he believes Montealegre can gain more support there. Arguing that Ortega has reached his ceiling, but Montealegre has not, Elgarresta was confident that the bulk of independent and undecided voters, as well as some PLC supporters, will shift their support to Montealegre once they are convinced that he is the only candidate who can beat Ortega.

¶3. (S) Regarding Montealegre's campaign, Elgarresta noted that it is finally shaping up and campaign money flowing in -- but not soon enough. (NOTE/COMMENT: According to Montealegre supporter Vilma Leon-York, who is assisting Eduardo Montealegre's fundraising efforts, Montealegre's wife Eliza will participate in fundraising events in Atlanta, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Miami over the next week. Eduardo will participate in a fundraising event in Miami on October 10, reportedly with the support of Mel Martinez, and an event in Washington DC on October 16, reportedly with the support of Jeanne Kirkpatrick. We also hear that the Taiwanese will support Montealegre starting early October. END NOTE/COMMENT.)

¶4. (C) Elgarresta explained that he closely monitors the communications aspects of the campaign, which includes a substantial spike in radio and television spots during the month of October. While many of the spots will focus on what Montealegre offers, some will attack Ortega, specifically warning voters that the forced conscription of the 1980s could return if the FSLN wins. One spot will feature a woman who lost one of her son's in the 1980s. Elgarresta noted

that ALN will also play on Congressman Burton's recent warning that an Ortega victory could spell disaster for the some 800 million dollars or so in remittances expatriate Nicaraguans send home each year.

15. (C) Regarding how the U.S. can best help, Elgarresta listed ensuring a clean electoral process through massive, top-notch observation and our "encouragement" of private sector backing. (COMMENT: Other recent polls also suggest that Montealegre is closing in on Ortega; however the possibility that Ortega will do his utmost to alter the election results to win on the first round is real. In addition to manipulations through the use of vote challenges (impugnaciones), we are hearing from a number of contacts that the FSLN is planning targeted power and phone line outages in voting centers and tables (JRVs) where Ortega is weak to interrupt voting and tabulation as well as the faxing of results from these areas. Informed observers, party poll watchers, and voters can help deter and minimize the fraud. END COMMENT.)  
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